

Lepidoptera in Perthshire and Inverness-shire,
June 1974, including the Rediscovery of *Ancylis*
tineana Hübner (Lep.: Tortricidae)

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En route for Newtonmore we stopped the dormobile near Struan, Perthshire, on the afternoon of 17th June, 1974, ostensibly to exercise both ourselves and M.W.H.'s golden retriever; and to search for larvae of *Orthosia gracilis* (D. & S.) on bog myrtle. The afternoon was overcast, muggy, and there was a fine drizzle. Walking along the heather and bog myrtle-clad area by the railway line we found many fine bright *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata* (Haworth) at rest on the posts, and a few *Eupithecia satyrata* (Hübner). In the dull weather many micros were flying, including *Lampronia oehlmanniella* (Treitschke), *Pleurota bicostella* (Clerck), *Crambus pratella* (Linnaeus), *Crambus nemorella* (Hübner), *Opsibotys fuscalis* (D. & S.), *Pterophorus tridactyla* (Linnaeus), *Platyptilia acanthodactyla* (D. & S.), *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* (Scopoli), *Clepsis senecionana* (Hübner), *Amelia viburnana* (D. & S.), *Epiblema scutulana* (D. & S.), *Ancylis uncella* (D. & S.), and two specimens of what later turned out to be *Ancylis tineana* (Hübner).

Only two specimens of this species have previously been reported; one netted on the south shore of Loch Rannoch on the afternoon of 3rd June, 1919 by F. G. Whittle, and the other on 14th June, 1923 at the same locality by W. G. Sheldon. According to Meyrick and L. T. Ford the imago flies from May to August, and the larva is found in June and July, and again in September and October. It is not made clear whether it is bivoltine, but presumably this information was from Continental sources and might not be relevant to this country anyway. The foodplants are said to be hawthorn, blackthorn, aspen, etc. There was certainly plenty of aspen in the area where we found it, but the only larvae we found on the aspen were *Anacamptis populella* (Clerck).

Clearly further searching is necessary to ascertain the food-plant and distribution in this country of this obscure little moth.

Blissfully unaware of the value of our captures we proceeded to search the bog myrtle for larvae, finding quite a large number of *O. gracilis*—still quite small; and several *Lithomoia solidaginis* (Hübner) which were unfortunately all parasitised. Micro larvae on the bog myrtle later produced specimens of *Epinotia caprana* (Fabricius), *Exapate congelatella* (Clerck) and *Acleris caledoniana* (Stephens).

Still in the rain we motored on to Newtonmore where we stayed until 22nd June. The weather improved gradually during those few days, and we were able to get out and about on at least part of the 18th and 19th, and the whole of the 20th and 21st. On the 18th we assaulted the lower slopes of Creag Dhubh where we found larvae of *A. populella* abundant on the aspens,

but netted no more *A. tineana*! A little higher up was an area of bog myrtle, the searching beating of which produced larvae of *Lycia lapponaria* (Boisduval), *Perizoma didymata* (Linnaeus), *Operophtera brumata* (Linnaeus), *Xylena vetusta* (Hübner), but no *O. gracilis*. Micro larvae produced *Scrobipalpa costella* (Humphreys and Westwood), *E. caprana*, *E. congelatella*, and *A. caledoniana*. Higher still among *Arctostaphylos* and *Vaccinium myrtillus* we caught specimens of *Epinotia nemorivaga* (Tengström), *Ancylis unguicella* (Linnaeus), *Ancylis myrtillana* (Treitschke), *Olethreutes mygindiana* (D. & S.), and a small, pale sandy-coloured form of *Olethreutes lacunana* (D. & S.). On the way back we took specimens of *Epinotia tetraquetra* (Haworth), *Epinotia subocellana* (Donovan), and *Hedya atropunctana* (Zetterstedt).

On the 19th we were joined by Mark Young who had motored from Aberdeen, and we all drove over to Cairngorm. Here *E. satyrata* were flying in numbers, as was *Ematurga atomaria* (Linnaeus), one of which proved to be a fine specimen of *ab. unicoloraria* (Staudinger). We climbed to a height of about 3,500 ft. finding many fresh *Coenotephria salicata* (Hübner), *E. nemorivaga*, *A. unguicella*, *A. myrtillana*, *Olethreutes schulziana* (Fabricius), and *Apotomis grevillana* (Curtis) which were disturbed from clumps of bilberry. On the way down from Cairngorm larvae were common on the lush cushions of bilberry in Glen More, and from these emerged two fine *Acleris maccana* (Treitschke), several *A. caledoniana*, and a large number of *Rhopobota unipunctana* (Haworth). We then stopped at a marsh near Kincaig where larvae of *Acleris aspersana* (Hübner) were abundant on *Potentilla palustris*, and clouds of *Lampronia rubiella* (Bjerkander) were flying around the wild raspberry bushes.

On the 20th one specimen of *Rhopobota ustomaculana* (Curtis) was taken on the slopes of Creag Dhubh, and a single fresh male *Rheumaptera hastata* (Linnaeus) flying over the bog myrtle in the afternoon. *O. mygindiana* was common on the slopes of Creag an Loin, and *Parasemia plantaginis* (Linnaeus) were flying high and wildly in the sunshine.

The 21st was a beautiful, hot sunny day, and wet set off on foot for Carn Ballach, which is just over 3,000 ft., in the hope of finding *Psodos coracina* (Esper) in spite of it being the "wrong" year. On the way we took two specimens of *Philedone gerningana* (D. & S.), and at a height of 2,000 ft. several *Hyppa rectilinea* (Esper) sitting on posts on bare moorland. There followed the final 1,000 ft. climb which was rather steep, and we negotiated it obliquely. The slope was heather-clad, with grassy flushes at intervals, one of which had a lot of bilberry in it and here *Olethreutes obsoletana* (Zetterstedt) was common. Most were quite fresh, and very variable. At about 2,800 ft. we found a spring which quenched our thirst and provided an ideal spot to eat our packed lunch. Shortly afterwards we took a series of *Eudonia alpina* (Curtis) which appeared to be quite common at this level. Later we reached the summit and were pleased to find *P. coracina*, both males

and females, flying freely. They were difficult to follow over the slaty ground, being ideally camouflaged both in flight and at rest, but a good series was secured, and they were all in fine condition. We returned to Newtonmore hot, tired, aching, and delighted with the success of the day.

The MV trap over these few days produced two *H. rectilinea*, some beautiful large pale *Diarsia rubi* (Vieweg)—which some would no doubt call *florida* (Schmidt)—several *Selenia lunularia* (Hübner), *Eudonia murana* (Curtis), the small, bright Scottish form of *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke), but little else worthy of comment.

Early on the morning of the 2nd we set off for the Isle of Skye. Stopping for a picnic in Glen Shiel we took the opportunity to search some more bog myrtle, but only managed to find *S. costella*, *E. caprana*, and *A. caledoniana* again. Having crossed on the ferry from Kyle to Lochalsh to Kyleakin we motored to the Sligachan Hotel where we stayed until the 28th. On the way we stopped again just north of Broadford to examine a lush growth of bog myrtle, finding larvae of *O. gracilis*, *X. vetusta*, *P. didymata*, *Abraxas grossulariata* (Linnaeus), *O. brumata*, *E. caprana*, *E. congelatella*, *A. viburnana*, *A. caledoniana*, and *Acleris latifasciana* (Haworth). Quite a few moths were flying, including *Scopula ternata* (Schrank), *Xanthorhoe montanata* (D. & S.), *E. satyrata*, *G. rufifasciata*, and *Plagodis pulveraria* (Linnaeus).

We settled comfortably in to the Sligachan Hotel where we were kindly allowed to run a MV light, were given an ample lunch each day, and an excellent evening meal.

On the 23rd we travelled to a bay on the west coast of the island where we hoped to find *Zygaena purpuralis caledonensis* (Reiss). The locality was sheltered from the east wind, and it was extremely hot. The slope was steep and quite difficult to negotiate. To our delight we had very obviously caught the species at the peak of its emergence. If anyone had told us how common it could be we would never have believed it. It was sometimes almost impossible to avoid treading on them. We counted as many as eight on one small plantain head, hawkweed and thistle was crawling with them. Standing still we could at times hear the faint crackling sound of the moths emerging from and rotating inside their paper cocoons, and there were sometimes two or three pairs *in copula* on a single grass stem. The species in this locality showed a wide range of variation, from dusky brownish to almost black and from pinkish yellow to yellow and dusky yellow. We have classified the varieties into five groups and hope to describe and name them in another paper. In this locality *Zygaena filipendulae anglicola* (Tremewan) was not common, and most of them were rather worn. Also in evidence were *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus) of which we counted five, *Argynnis aglaja* (Linnaeus), *Aglais urticae* (Linnaeus), *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus), *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linnaeus), *Pieris napi* (Linnaeus), *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg), *Xanthorhoe designata* (Hufnagel), *X. montanata*, *Camptogramma bilineata atlantica* (Staudinger),

Alcis repandata (Linnaeus), *Autographa pulchrina* (Haworth), *Eucosma cana* (Haworth), and *Falseuncaria ruficiliana* (Haworth).

The 24th was yet another cloudless day, and this beautiful weather was to continue for the rest of our stay. God was in his heaven and all was right with the Isle of Skye. We decided to explore the north coast of Loch Harport, failing to find *Z. purpuralis* or any suitable terrain for it there, but larvae of *O. gracilis* were common on the bog myrtle, and one specimen of *Olethreutes rivulana* (Scopoli) was flushed from bracken. Later that day we went to Talisker Bay to look for *Zygaena lonicerae jocelynae* (Tremewan). The moth was common over a very limited area, as were its pupae and full grown larvae. Here also were larvae of *Hadena confusa* (Hufnagel) in flowers and seed heads of *Silene maritima* and *S. dioica*; a single larva of *Antitype chi* (Linnaeus), and plenty of larvae of *Thera cognata* (Thunberg) were beaten from creeping juniper overhanging the cliffs. On the south-facing slopes *Z. purpuralis* was common, also *Z. filipendulae* imagines and pupae, and a single *Setina irrorella* (Linnaeus).

On the 25th we were irresistably drawn back to the *purpuralis* locality we had visited on the 23rd. The moth was just as common, but nearly all of them were worn and we found fewer varieties. They were still crawling over each other on the flowers, desperately seeking nectar and an unmated partner. Their clambering over each other was slow and deliberate, and each group looked for all the world like a bacchanalian orgy in a geriatric home. It was little wonder that they became worn so quickly and we were tremendously lucky to have found them so fresh only two days earlier. Later that day we searched and beat heather near Carbost, finding larvae of *Lasiocampa quercus callunae* (Palmer), *Entephria caesiata* (D. & S.), *Eulithis testata* (Linnaeus), *Chloroclysta truncata* (Hufnagel)—or ? *concinata* (Stephens)—, *O. brumata*, *A. grossulariata*, *E. atomaria*, and *A. caledoniana*.

On the morning of the 26th, M.W.H. seemingly needing exercise climbed Glamaig, one of the Red Cuillins, and took a single *Catopria furcatellus* (Zetterstedt) near the summit. In the afternoon we went to Glenbrittle and explored the north side of Loch Brittle. Having crossed the alarmingly insecure suspension bridge over the river we found larvae of *O. gracilis* abundant on bog myrtle, and a few also on meadowsweet on which were larvae of *A. aspersana* as well. Further along the coast *Z. purpuralis* occurred sparingly in the more sheltered undulations of the slopes. *Z. filipendulae* was also present, quite a few *C. truncata*, *Aplocera plagiata scotica* (Richardson), *A. repandata*, and an abundance of *C. bilineata* sitting on the rocks. Sitting is probably not the right term to use, perhaps "poised for take-off" would be more appropriate, because all the last four species dashed away rapidly at our very approach before we even had a chance to tap the rocks. Strategy and stealth were the order of the day if any were to be netted at all.

The 27th was our last full day on Skye, and we decided to travel again to Glenbrittle, follow the south coast of Loch Brittle, round the point at Rubh' an Dunain and then follow the south-facing coast looking across to the Isle of Soay; finally striking inland and back to Glenbrittle. It was a superb day and we ate our packed lunch at Rubh' an Dunain watching gannets fishing, and having a magnificent panoramic view from South Uist and Barra to the far right, then round to Canna, Rum, Eigg, and the mountains of Arisaig in the distance to the left. On this walk *Z. filipendulae* was more common than we had found it elsewhere, and there were some obviously well-established colonies of *Z. purpuralis* on the coast of the Sound of Soay where it has not apparently been recorded previously. The moth was abundant in some of the coves, but we found no variation from the norm. A patch of *Salix repens* produced larvae of *Acleris hastiana* (Linnaeus), and one larva of *Caloptilia stigmatella* (Fabricius); and the creeping juniper surrendered large numbers of *T. cognata* larvae, most of which were full-fed. Butterflies were plentiful, and apart from those mentioned earlier we found a few *Coenonympha tullia scotica* (Staudinger). Moths seen that day were *Colostygia pectinataria* (Knoch), *Perizoma blandiata* (D. & S.), *Bactria lancealana* (Hübner), *Crambus pascuella* (Linnaeus), *Crambus perlella* (Scopoli), *Scoparia arundinata* (Thunberg), *Pyrausta cespitalis* (D. & S.), as well as many of those recorded earlier.

Over the period of our stay on Skye the MV trap produced the following species: *Rhigognostis senilella* (Zetterstedt), *E. cana*, *S. ternata*, *X. designata*, *Xanthorhoe munitata* (Hübner), *X. montanata*, *Xanthorhoe fluctuata* (Linnaeus), *Cosmorhoe ocellata* (Linnaeus), *C. salicata*, *C. pectinataria*, *P. blandiata*, *Eupithecia nanata* (Hübner), *A. repandata*, *Gnophos obfuscatus* (D. & S.), *Dyscia fagaria* (Thunberg), *Laothoe populi* (Linnaeus), *Ochropleura plecta* (Linnaeus), *Standfussiana lucernea* (Linnaeus), *Lycophotia porphyrea* (D. & S.), *Diarsia mendica* (Fabricius), *Diarsia brunnea* (D. & S.), *D. rubi*, *Hada nana* (Hufnagel), *Lacanobia oleracea* (Linnaeus), *Ceramica pisi* (Linnaeus), *Mythimna impura* (Hübner), *Blepharita adusta* (Esper), *Acronycta menyanthidis* (Esper), *Acronycta rumicis* (Linnaeus), *Rusina ferruginea* (Esper), *Apamea crenata* (Hufnagel), *Apamea remissa* (Hübner), *Caradrina clavipalpis* (Scopoli), *Colocasia coryli* (Linnaeus), and *Abrostola triplasia* (Linnaeus).

Sadly we left on the 28th, but before driving to Kyleakin decided to search the willow bushes between Sligachan and Portree. Of the many larvae found by far the majority produced *Epinotia cruciana* (Linnaeus), but there were several fine *A. hastiana*, and a single *Epinotia crenana* (Hübner) which is quite a rarity.

Having crossed to the mainland we broke the southward journey at Loch Arkaig in the hope of finding *Perizoma taeniata* (Stephens). No sooner was the journey broken than so was the right wrist of M.W.H. who fell on some wooden steps, one of which was rotten and gave way under his weight. There followed

an uncomfortable bumpy drive to Fort William along a single-track road. At one stage we had to pull off the road to allow a funeral cortege to pass. It seemed an endless caravan of cars following the hearse, and we truly felt in the mood to join in the wake—in retrospect it was hilarious in a macabre sort of way. However we eventually reached the hospital, plaster-of-paris was applied, and the carnival was over bar the drive back to rainy England.

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The Rise and Fall of the Pincushion

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The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540

Many items of entomological paraphernalia have enjoyed a temporary vogue before being relegated to oblivion, or at least the sole attention of those historians who are interested in the development of instrumentation as well as the more frequently studied aspects of the history of the biological sciences. Among the more curious of a number of utilitarian objects pressed into service by our naturalist ancestors when collecting insects was the humble household pincushion, an unlikely accoutrement which, curiously enough, enjoyed a vogue of well over several centuries. The story of the pincushion is quite naturally linked to the use of pins as devices for securing insects, both in the field and for final mounting in cabinets.

Sources for collecting methods prior to the mid-seventeenth century are unfortunately so vague that, quite frankly, we do not know when the now common entomological pinning technique was first used in preparing insects for collections. Of course the problem is compounded because only a few small insect collections survive from the seventeenth century, and at least none of those which I have examined are mounted on pins. However, we know that John Ray, one of the founders of modern botany and also one of the several most important figures in seventeenth-century English entomology, mounted his specimens on pins and kept them in store-boxes when accumulating the data for his *Historia Insectorum* (1710), published posthumously, and it would appear from contemporary manu-